

THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY

FIFTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENERGY AND TRANSPORT MINISTERS' MEETING

Port Vila, Vanuatu, 8 – 12 May 2023

TI 07: HARMONIZED PROVISION OF MARINE AIDS TO NAVIGATION SERVICES

[Submitted by IALA]

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to promote harmonized provision of Marine aids to Navigation services in the Pacific Islands region.

Background

2. The IALA World-Wide Academy (WWA) is the vehicle by which IALA delivers education, training and capacity building aimed at improving safety of navigation worldwide.
3. The WWA is dedicated to assisting national authorities in sustainable development and improvement in the provision of Marine Aids to Navigation services. It enables national authorities to meet their States' respective obligations under the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982* (UNCLOS) and *Safety of Life at Sea Convention 1974* (SOLAS), as described by the International Maritime Organization and detailed in IALA standards, recommendations and guidelines.
4. Since its inauguration in 2012, the WWA has conducted numerous technical needs assessment visits, workshops, and training activities in the Pacific region with a view to fostering safe and efficient movement of vessels through harmonized Marine Aids to Navigation services in the Pacific Islands region and worldwide.

Current status

5. In their resolution (T4) from the **Fourth PRETMM**, held in Samoa in 2019, the Transport Ministers:
 - I. *Agreed* to include in national plans activities to achieve compliance with international instruments and best practises, and improve governance through the adoption of measures and indicators such as those proposed in the SPC's *Guide for Pacific Island Countries in developing a Strategy to implement relevant instruments of the International Maritime Organization* and the *Regional Strategy on Safety of Navigation in the Pacific*; and
 - II. *Requested* development partners to provide assistance for the delivery of safety of navigation services in PICTs to align with national priorities and plans and coordinate their activities through the *Regional Strategy on Safety of Navigation in the Pacific* in order to measure and report on progress.
6. It is the intent of the WWA to continue to assist coastal States and organizations, such as the SPC, to achieve relevant goals of national priorities and plans as well as the *Regional Strategy on Safety of Navigation in the Pacific*.
7. We believe that this approach will eventually lead to the accomplishment of IALA's goal of harmonized Marine Aids to Navigation services worldwide.

Issues

8. Coastal States wishing to participate in a globally harmonized Maritime Aids to Navigation service should aspire to conform with relevant IALA standards, which sadly is not the case for coastal States in the Pacific Islands region.
9. Since the Transport Ministers, at their **Fourth PRETMM** in 2019 agreed to “*include in national plans activities to achieve compliance with international instruments and best practises*”, it must follow that these national plans should include the ambition of being able to claim conformance with relevant IALA standards.

Recommendations

10. Transport Ministers are invited to:
 - a. **applaud** the WWA for its commitment to assist national authorities in the Pacific Islands region towards sustainable development and improvement in the provision of Marine Aids to Navigation services;
 - b. **urge** Pacific coastal States to include in their national plans the ambition of being able to claim conformance with relevant IALA standards and thereby help fostering safe and efficient movement of vessels through harmonized Marine Aids to Navigation services worldwide; and
 - c. **request** WWA to continue its support for the delivery of safety of navigation services in PICTs to align with national priorities and plans and coordinate their activities through the *Regional Strategy on Safety of Navigation in the Pacific* to measure and report on progress.

Date: 17 April 2023